

allowability with respect to claims 41-46.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the elements that were formerly recited in dependent claim 41. Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the elements that were formerly recited in dependent claim 42. Independent claim 34 has been amended to include the elements that were formerly recited in dependent claim 43. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 18, and 34, and the claims dependent thereon, are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 44 has been re-written in independent form to include the elements of the base claim 1. Claim 45 has also been re-written in independent form to include the elements of the base claim 18. Finally, claim 46 has been re-written in independent form to recite the elements of the base claim 34. In that claims 44, 45, and 46 have been re-written in accordance with the Examiner's remarks to include all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 44, 45, and 46, as amended, are now allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2-17, 36, and 39 depend from independent claim 1, claims 20-33, and 37 depend from independent claim 18, and claims 35, 38, and 40 depend from independent claim 34. Therefore, since dependent claims 2-17, 20-33, and 35-40 depend from allowable base claims, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-17, 20-33, and 35-40 are likewise allowable.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon by the Examiner has been reviewed and does not appear to be any more relevant than the applied references.

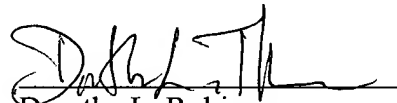
Conclusion

For the above-identified reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 and 20-46

are allowable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue of claims 1-18 and 20-46 as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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